Drugs Used for Diagnostic Anesthesia in Horses

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|  | **Lidocaine** | **Mepivicaine** | **Bupivicaine** |
| **Onset** | < 4 mins | < 4 mins | < 10 mins |
| **Duration** | 0.5-1.5 hrs | 2-4 hrs | 6-12 hrs |
| **Max dose (mg/kg)** | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| **Concentration** | 2% | 2% | 0.5-0.75% |

**Notes:**

* Mepivicaine has a longer duration, causes less edema and less vasodilation than Lidocaine.
* Lidocaine causes tissue irritation such cellulitis.
* Adrenaline can be added to increase duration of anesthesia and decrease plasma concentration of the drug used.
* However, addition of adrenaline causes tissue ischemia and necrosis, white hair formation and dehiscence.